



NAME _____

DATE _____

Words From Literature

jabberwocky**lilliputian****quixotic****narcissus****robot****puckish****Herculean****utopian****scrooge****malapropism**

NEW WORDS SOMETIMES COME FROM CHARACTERS, PLACES, AND EVENTS IN **LITERATURE**.

Writing or speech that makes no sense is **jabberwocky**.

Something very tiny is **lilliputian**.

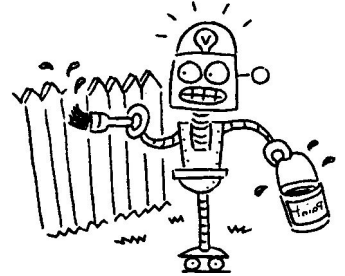
Someone who is romantic and impractical is **quixotic**.

A **narcissus** is a flower that grows from a bulb. / **Puckish** means "mischievous."

Herculean means "really difficult." / A **utopian** idea is one that is visionary but imaginary.

A miserly person is a **scrooge**. / A **malapropism** is a funny misuse of words.

A **robot** is a mechanical device that performs human tasks.



A. Write a vocabulary word for each sentence.

1. People only six inches tall live on the island of Lilliput in *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift.
2. A knight called Don Quixote is the hero of a book by Cervantes.
3. In the play, *The Rivals* by Richard Sheridan, Mrs. Malaprop has trouble getting things straight.
4. Karel Capek made up a word for machines that work for people in his play called *R. u. R.*
5. In Roman mythology, Hercules does twelve impossible labors.
6. Scrooge is a selfish character in *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

B. Write the letter of its literary source beside each word.

1. **jabberwocky** _____
2. **narcissus** _____
3. **utopia** _____
4. **puckish** _____
 - a. An impish character named Puck appears in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare.
 - b. Lewis Carroll created an imaginary animal called a Jabberwock in *Through the Looking-Glass*.
 - c. In a Greek myth, a youth named Narcissus falls in love with his own image and finally turns into a flower.
 - d. In 1551, Sir Thomas More wrote about Utopia, an island with a perfect social and political system.

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A. Use what you know. Write the best word to complete each sentence.

1. That man doesn't like to spend his money and is sometimes called a _____.
2. Ginnie has lots of noble but unworkable ideas; she's rather _____.
3. In the spring, large clusters of _____ cover the fields.
4. Mom thinks it would be great to have a _____ to do the household chores.
5. This essay has no meaning; it's just _____.
6. Henry is a fun-loving guy with a _____ smile.
7. With _____ effort, the little girl managed to carry her suitcase upstairs.
8. In a _____, the speaker meant to say a "rude awakening," but instead blurted out a "shrewd awakening."
9. The dollhouse furniture was a _____ copy of our living room furniture.
10. Many reformers have had _____ dreams of better societies.

B. Read each question. Choose the best answer.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Which one suggests confusion? | <input type="radio"/> malady | <input type="radio"/> malapropism | <input type="radio"/> malevolent |
| 2. What does a robot do? | <input type="radio"/> dream | <input type="radio"/> work | <input type="radio"/> think |
| 3. Which one is an ant? | <input type="radio"/> lilliputian | <input type="radio"/> gargantuan | <input type="radio"/> utopian |
| 4. What kind of person is more fun? | <input type="radio"/> scrooge | <input type="radio"/> puckish | <input type="radio"/> Herculean |

Writing to Learn

Pretend you are an author. Describe five characters in a book or play you are writing. Use at least one vocabulary word in your description of each character.